



Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
Pest Detection and Management Programs – Program Update

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Program: Huanglongbing (HLB – Citrus Greening)      Date: January 26, 2006

APHIS prepared a revised environmental assessment (EA) for the citrus greening program to survey, detect, quarantine, and apply pesticide treatments for the control of citrus greening disease in Florida nurseries in the following counties: Brevard, Broward, Charlotte, Citrus, Collier, DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Hernando, Highlands, Hillsborough, Indian River, Lake, Lee, Manatee, Marion, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Pasco, Pineallas, Polk, Putnam, Sarasota, Seminole, St. Lucie, and Volusia.

At this time, citrus greening disease has been detected in Broward, Collier, DeSoto, Hendry, Highlands, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Palm Beach, Sarasota, and St. Lucie Counties, Florida but has the real potential to spread to other Florida counties and other states if not immediately contained.

The availability of the EA was announced in both The Miami Herald and The Fort Lauderdale Sun Sentinel on September 30, 2005. In both of those legal notices of availability, the public was requested to comment on the EA by October 28, 2005. This comment period was subsequently extended to November 10, 2005. The legal notices explained that because a control response to this serious citrus disease infestation is urgent, program operations might begin immediately.

APHIS considered the potential environmental effects and consequences of each alternative. Based on analysis of the environmental impacts, APHIS has determined that there would be no significant impact on the quality of the human environment from the implementation of the proposed action (preferred alternative), which is a program to control citrus psyllids in nurseries through detection, quarantine, tree removal, and insect treatments. The applicable nurseries will only use Environmental Protection Agency approved pesticides and will strictly follow the label requirements for the respective pesticide applications for the control of citrus psyllids. In accordance with the pesticide applications being limited to nursery sites and complying with label safety precautions, any human and environmental impacts from exposure to pesticides being applied are expected to be minimal.

Accordingly, on January 20, 2006, APHIS issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the final EA concerning the Citrus Greening Control Program in Florida Nurseries. This Notice of Availability of the FONSI is being announced in newspapers in Miami, Fort Lauderdale, West Palm Beach, Orlando and Tampa both in English and Spanish in the near future.

A FONSI is the agency's determination that the action proposed does not cause significant impacts to the environment, including potential impacts on threatened and endangered species and their habitats, as well as human health. Anyone wishing to obtain a copy of the EA and/or the FONSI should access the APHIS website at :  
[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/enviro\\_docs/citrusgreening.html](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/enviro_docs/citrusgreening.html) or contact Kenneth Seeley: 4700 River Road, Unit 149, Riverdale Maryland 20737. Interested persons should request the document entitled, "Finding of No Significant Impact Citrus Greening Control Program in Florida Nurseries, January 2006."

To date there have been a total of 2,289 HLB samples taken accounting for 548 HLB positive trees on 448 properties. The majority of these HLB positive sites are in residential areas, however, there have been HLB detections made in eight commercial groves in Palm Beach, Martin, Collier, Hendry, and Desoto Counties.

Since the initial detection of HLB, both PPQ and the State of Florida have been working at harmonizing a regulatory response plan including addressing intrastate and interstate movement

of HLB and Asian citrus psyllid host material, the development of a State Emergency Rule, a Federal Order, and an Environmental Assessment. Additionally, through the National Plant Board, there have been numerous periodic conference calls with other citrus producing states to keep them apprised of the HLB situation and on-going program activities in Florida .

The HLB-ICS is standing up operations in Immokalee Florida from January 23 rd to February 17 th . HLB surveys will entail residential and commercial citrus groves in a five county area in southwest Florida .